

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05326 191458Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JIDDA 5326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, LE
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH FON MIN SAUD -
LEBANON

1. IN 2 AND A HALF HOUR METING ON JULY 18, PRINCE SAUD TOLD UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM THAT KING KHALID WAS SENDING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ASKING THE US TO BEND ITS EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN THE PHALANGE AND THE CHAMOUNISTS FROM PROOKING THE SYRIANS AND CAUSING A COLLAPSE OF THE CEASEFIRE. THE KING'S MESSAGE ALSO ASKS THAT THE US USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE ISRAELIS TO KEEP THEM FROM TAKING ACIONS THAT PROVOKE THE SYRAIANS.

2. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM COMPLICATED THE SAG ON ITS VERY VALUABLE WORK IN HELPING KEEP THE PEACE IN LEBANON. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS AGREED TO STAY ON AS PRESIDENT AND
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HE WAS SURE THAT THIS WAS DUE IN LARGE PART TO SAUDI EFFORTS. MR. NWSOM ASKED FOR THE SAUDI ASSESSMENT ON THE CURRENT ATTITUDE OF THE SYRIANS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW EHETHER SAG THOUGHT SYRIA WAS WILLING TO STAY ON LEBANON NOW THAT PRESIDENT SAUKIS HAS AGGreed TO REMAIN ON.

3. PRINCE SAUISAID THAT THE SYRIAN POSITION HAD NOT

CHANGED. SYRIA IS WILLING TO KEEP ITS FORCES AT THE DIS-
POSITION OF PRESIDENT SAUDIS AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOT
PLACED IN A POSITION WHERE THEY ARE BEING ATTACKED WITH-
OUT BEING ABLE TO RETURN FIRE. THE TROOPS THERE FORE MUST
NOT BE PLACED IN AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. THIS WOULD
DESTROY THEIR MORALE. HE THOUGHT THAT SAUKIS SHOULD NOW
TAKE ACTION TO GAIN A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER CHRISTIAN
RITHTISITS.

4. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THAT AOUR CHIEF OBJECTIVE
WAS TO OBTAIN A REDUCTIONOF ARMS IN LEBANON. WE APPRE-
CIATE THE SAUDI ROLE IN TRYING TO KEEP LEBANON TOGETHER.
WE TOO HAVE WORKED VERY HARD. WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE
ISRAELIS AND HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIVES TO END
PROVOCATION OF THE SYRIANS. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED ISRAELIS
NOT TO GIVE THE HRISTIANS THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WILL
COME TO THIER AID. WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE DONE WHAT
WE CAN AND THAT OUR ACTIONS HAVE BROUGHT RESULTS.

5. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THA THE US
WANTED TO CONVENE THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE
LEBANESE CRISIS. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THAT WE
HAD CONSIDERED CALLING FOR A MEETING OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL. THAT WAS ON THE THIRD OR FOURTH DAY OF FIGHTING
WHEN THERE SEEMED FEW ALTERNATIVES. OUR EMBASSY IN BEI-
RUT FELT THAT SAUKIS WAS ABOUT TO RESIGN. ISRAEL WAS
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STEPPING UP SUPPORT OF THE CHRISTIANS. LEBANON WAS ABOUT
TO DISINTEGRATE. WE FELT THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BRING
PRESSURE ON ALL THE PARTIES WAS TO FACE THEM WITH THE
POSSIBLITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. AS IT TURNED
OUT, THE IDEA GOT NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM BOTH LEBANON
AND SYRIA AND WE DROPPED IT. A CEASEFIRE WAS FORTUNATELY
ACHIEVED RIGHT AFTER THAT.

6. PRINCE SAUD ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANGE OF OPINION
IN THE USG ON THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE. UNDER SECRETARY
NEWSOM SAID THAT THE PERIOD OF INDISCRIMAINATION KILLING IN
ASHRAFIYA IS NOW OVER. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO HE
ADF UNTIL THE NECESSARY LEBANESE FORCES AND GENDARNARIE
TO TAKE OVER CAN BE CREATED. OUR MOST IMPORTANT OBJEC-
TIVE NOW IS TO OBTAIN A REDUCTION OF ARMS IN LEBANON, ESPEC-
IALLY AROUND BEIRUT. THE SECRETARY HAS SAID THAT THIS
IS CENTRAL. HOWEVER, THE CHRISTIANS WILL NOT AGREE TO A
REDUCTION OF THEIR ARMS UNTIL WE GET A CORRESPONDING
REDUCTION FROM THE PALESTINIANS. ANYTHING THE SAG CAN
DO TO HELP WITH THE PALESTINAINS ON THIS SCORE WILL
HELP. SAUD SAID THAT PALESTINIANS IN THE CAMPS AROUND
BEIRUT WERE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONLY SMALL ARMS. THEY HAVE

MOVED OUT ALL THE HEAVY WEAPONS. IN FACT, THERE HAD BEEN
A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE MOVEMENT.

7. MR. NEWSOM SAID TTHAT WE HOPED THAT SAG WOULD WORK
FOR A RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIYADH MINI-SUMMIT.
PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT THIS WAS DESIRABLE BUT THE CRHRISTIANS
WERE NOT WILLING BECAUSE THEY HAVE ISRAELI BACKING. MANY
PEIOPLE IN THE ARAB WORLD SAY THAT THE CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS
WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED THE WAY THEY HAVE WITHOUT ISRAELI
BACKING AND TACIT APPROVAL BY THE US . MR. NEWSOM SAID
THAT US WAS NOT COLLABORATING WITH THE CHRISTIANS OR
WITH THE ISRAELIS. IN FACT WE ARE TRYING TO DISCOURAGE
THEM FROM ACTIONS THAT WILL UPSET THE CEASEFIRE. NEWSOM
CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR INFLUENCE IN TEL AVIV
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IS NOT TOTAL. HE ADDED THAT WE DO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS
AND GOOD COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS AND WE ALSO WANT
TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SAG. HE STRESSED THAT THE SYRIANS
MUST SHOW RESTRAINT IF RESTRAINT IS TO BE EXPECTED
FROM THE OTHERS.
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